ITU-TRCSL Symposium on Cloud Computing

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WELCOME SPEECH

MR SAMEER SHARMA

SENIOR ADVISOR
ITU REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Mr. M M Zuhair PC, Director General, TRCSL,

Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman, PTA, Pakistan,

Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to be here with you at this important symposium, and also to join you in the beautiful city of Colombo.

On behalf of ITU, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to M M Zuhair PC, Director General, TRCSL, for your personal presence, and your support for this ITU-TRCSL Symposium on Cloud Computing.

TRCSL has been host to several ITU global as well as regional events and in particular I would like to recall GSR 2012 and Greening the Future: Bridging the Standardization Gap on Environmental Sustainability in 2013 and inauguration of Connect a School Connect a Community in 2013. I further consider myself fortunate as this is also the 150th Year of the ITU that we all are celebrating it the entire year.

For me at least, this is the first time to celebrate 150 years of anything that I am so deeply a part of. I take the occasion to thank TRCSL and all stakeholders for their trust in the ITU.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In fact I am just returning after very successful training course organised by the PTA Pakistan for training the officials from Afghanistan Regulator ATRA on regulatory issues and I thank Dr. Ismail Shah who has graciously agreed to contribute to the symposium for his leadership and support for assisting the countries and building capacity for creating enabling regulatory environment in the region.

Let me now come to the theme of the Symposium this year. We have been living in the Internet age. And now, progressing rapidly towards a society where Internet or ICT connectivity is becoming pervasive; not only in humans, but also "things".

- Globally 3.2 billion people using the Internet by end 2015, of which 2 billion are from developing countries

- Mobile broadband is the most dynamic market segment; globally, mobile broadband penetration reaches 47% in 2015, a value that increased 12 times since 2007

- The proportion of households with Internet access at home increased from 18% in 2005 to 46% in 2015

- 3G population coverage is expected to reach 69% by population by 2015

- In 2014, in 111 countries the price of a basic (fixed or mobile) broadband plan corresponds to less than 5% of average GNI per capita, thus meeting the Broadband Commission target

- However, in developing world and in rural areas, there is still a lot to be done to bridge the Internet access gap. 4 billion people from developing countries remain offline; representing 2/3 of the population residing in developing countries while 3G coverage by population in rural areas is estimated to be less than 30%

- The Internet of Things (IoT) is rapidly becoming a reality, and machine-to-machine (M2M) communications are expected to grow significantly in the near future

- The term "big data", used to define high-volume, -velocity and -variety information assets that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing for enhanced insight and decision making. It is estimated that 40 Zettabytes (10^{21} bytes) of data will be created by 2020, an increase of 300 times from 2005

We all now recognize the vital importance of ICT as a social and economic development tool, as it enables high-speed, evidence-based, remote decision-making, bringing efficiencies to all sectors, and enhancing possibilities for cross-sectoral collaboration. More than 190 countries have either adopted or in the process of adopting a national broadband plan, policy or strategy.

According to the ITU Cloud computing refers to paradigm for enabling network access to a scalable and elastic pool of shareable physical or virtual resources with self-service provisioning and administration on-demand where examples of resources include servers, operating systems, networks, software, applications, and storage equipment   Computing facilities and applications will increasingly be delivered as a service, over the Internet. We are already making use of cloud computing when, for example, we use applications such as Google Mail, Microsoft Office 365 or Google Docs. In the future, governments, companies and individuals will increasingly turn to the cloud.

The cloud computing paradigm changes the way in which information is managed, especially where personal data processing is concerned. End-users can access cloud services without the need for any expert knowledge of the underlying technology.

Cloud Computing is an emerging technology which will bring about innovations in terms of business models and applications. The widespread penetration of smartphones will be a major factor in driving the adoption of cloud computing. However, cloud computing faces challenges related to privacy and security. The global dimension of cloud computing requires standardized methodologies and technical solutions to enable stakeholders to assess privacy risks and establish adequate protection levels. From a business point of view, privacy should represent an opportunity for cloud providers to promote brand image and differentiate services.

The work of ITU T SG 15 and SG 17 for cloud computing standards and security lays the foundation of interoperable ICT networks based on cloud with secure access by the users. This gives rise to immense opportunities for innovative services and future growth of ICT.

This event is an excellent example of initiative from TRCSL involving international as well as local experts including ITU expert Ruan HE from France and experts from CISCO, Huewai and Sri Lanka itself. I thank you all for your contribution and thank the participants who have joined this Symposium.

I wish this seminar every success. Thank you for your attention.